God Knows Best – Rom. 8:26-27

The power of prayer can never, especially, in our most vulnerable state be underestimated. So often when we are at our most vulnerable state, we also believe we are the weakest, yet this scripture says something quite different. So often in those moments extreme moments of vulnerability we do not know what we should be praying for. We believe in those moments of great pain and vulnerability that what we need is relief from the onslaught that is upon us. Why is that when we ask for patience God sends those who try us the most.

Paul leads us into the Word of God understanding we are not strong in those moments of vulnerability to pray with any spiritual clarity. However, Paul tells us something that we need to know about prayer and the way it works. **"26 … the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God."**

God's Holy Spirit comes to our rescue in the times when the words of prayer are lost, when the pain is too great to bear God shows up because God knows our heart. Paul tell us the Holy Spirit helps in our times of weakness. We do not know what to pray for, we do not know the words to speak. We do not know how to get out of the situation we find ourselves in, yet prayer is on our lips.

How often have you been on bended knee and did not know what to say? How often has the moment been so confusing and filled with chaos that our minds begin to swim in a state of delirium? Yet, you know where you should go. You know where you must. You know the only place you can go. You know where the answer can be found. You know who holds the answer. Paul tells us it is exactly in those moments of desperation, those moments when all clarity has been lost that God steps in. **"The Spirit Himself intercedes for us thorough wordless groans."**

God steps in and uses our speechless groans, God takes our utterances, our babble, our tear stained words and uses our gibberish to answer our prayers.

Paul says the reason God can do this is because he knows the mind of the Spirit because it is His mind. The Holy Spirit has already registered your concern with God. The Spiritual telegraph line that leads to God is still working on our behalf. Working even in those times when we do not know what to really pray for. When we learn to accept the movement of God in our lives as God's will for us in that moment, we will better understand how God works. You see, it is not the hardships that always tears us down. It is believing, even knowing that God's will has something better for us and that better has not yet arrived that pulls us into the abyss. Yet, even then God keeps us and holds us in His loving care.

Annie Johnson Flint wrote this poem I believe is fitting if we would read it with an open heart and mind.

I prayed for strength, and then I lost awhile

All sense of nearness, human and divine;

The love I leaned on failed and pierced my heart,

The hands I clung to loosed themselves from mine;

But while I swayed, weak, trembling and alone,

The everlasting arms upheld my own.

I prayed for light; the sun went down in clouds,

The moon was darkened by a misty doubt,

The stars of heaven were dimmed by earthly fears,

And all my little candle flames burned out;

But while I sat in shadow, wrapped in night,

The face of Christ made all the darkness bright.

I prayed for peace, and dreamed of restful ease,
A slumber drugged from pain, a hushed repose;
Above my head the skies were black with storm,
And fiercer grew the onslaught of my foes;
But while the battle raged, and wild winds blew,
I heard His voice and perfect peace I knew.

I thank Thee, Lord, Thou wert too wise to heed
My feeble prayers, and answer as I sought,
Since these rich gifts Thy bounty has bestowed
Have brought me more than all I asked or thought;
Giver of good, so answer each request
With Thine own giving, better than my best.